



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 576

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 6637

House of Representatives, April 28, 2005

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON ALIMONY, PROPERTY DIVISION AND PARENTING PLAN GUIDELINES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study issues related to (1) the use by the courts of advisory
3 guidelines to ensure the appropriateness of alimony awards, the
4 division of property and parenting plans in proceedings for
5 dissolution of marriage, and (2) the establishment of a commission to
6 create, issue and update such guidelines. Such study shall include, but
7 not be limited to, an examination of appropriate requirements for the
8 application and review of such guidelines and the appropriate
9 membership and powers of any such commission.
- 10 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 11 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 12 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

13 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
14 Representatives;

15 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

16 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
17 Representatives;

18 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

19 (7) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
20 Administrator's designee;

21 (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
22 commissioner's designee; and

23 (9) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
25 relating to the judiciary, or their designees.

26 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
27 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
28 of the General Assembly. The members appointed under subsection
29 (b) of this section shall include a representative of the Connecticut Bar
30 Association, a person who represents the financial concerns of
31 divorced persons, a representative of the Permanent Commission on
32 the Status of Women and a representative of a group that represents
33 the interests of fathers, with the objective of balancing the interests of
34 both of the parents and the children in proceedings for dissolution of
35 marriage.

36 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
37 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
38 filled by the appointing authority.

39 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
40 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
41 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons

42 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held
43 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

44 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
46 judiciary shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

47 (g) Not later than January 1, 2006, the task force shall submit a
48 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
49 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
50 relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section
51 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
52 that it submits such report or January 1, 2006, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept.; Children & Families, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a legislative task force to study certain issues related to divorce or dissolution proceedings and to issue a report to the Judiciary Committee no later than January 1, 2006. The bill permits members of the General Assembly to participate on the task force, and requires the administrative staff of the Judiciary Committee to provide administrative assistance. The Chief Court Administrator and the Commissioner of Children and Families, or their designees, must participate. The Office of Legislative Management would incur minimal costs associated with mileage reimbursement of 40.5 cents per mile for legislators participating in the task force. The Judicial Department and DCF could participate in the task force with no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6637

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON ALIMONY,
PROPERTY DIVISION AND PARENTING PLAN GUIDELINES***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 40 Nay 0